

# An Opportunity for solidarity with Emma and the Akanu Ngwa Community

by Emma and anonymous

I am Emma and I live in a rural community called Akanu Ngwa Community in Ugwunagbo Local Government Area of Abia state Nigeria.

I live with my mother, my siblings and I have a partner and a son.

I was forced to drop out from University of Port-Harcourt in 2017 from the department of Sociology and Anthropology because I couldn't pay my tuition fees. Since then I have been dependending on farming and other menial jobs to survive.

I do community organization to help youths in my Community to understand the cause of our suffering and to radicalize their minds to ask questions. With the help of a few comrades in 2021, I was able to open a free computer center in my community where I teach basic computer skills. I and my younger comrades also moved from school to school to teach kids basic computer knowledge and their fundamental human rights with the aim to raise men and women who will ask questions in the future.

Obvious characteristics of Akanu Ngwa and that of other rural communities in Nigeria are lack of social amenities, an absence of healthcare providers, water borne diseases which has resulted in endemic disease such as (malaria and typhoid) poor school system as Nigeria have the highest number of out of school children (oosc) in sub-Saharan, poverty which has resulted to poor living standard, manutrinitions, poor infrastructures and a general insecurity etc.

It might interest you to know that Nigeria is the highest oil producing country in Africa, yet Nigerians are dying in hunger whilst few live in luxuries. Buy mansions in America, Europe, and Asia. Communities whose lands are hosting crude have over the years faced threats of hunger, insecurity, pandemic, ecological disaster etc. Threats of ecological disaster, members of rural communities in Niger delta for example are breathing bad air, drinking contaminated waters, and have lost the ecosystem they long depended on, all because of hydrocarbon exploration by multinational oil companies and oil bunkering. Industrial ventures that only serve capitalist elites in the city and a select privileged few willing to exploit their fellow man in the rural communities.

This exploration tarnishes the livelihood of people in the Niger Delta which has always revolved around farming and fishing. Because of hydrocarbon exploration the lands and water have become so polluted with crude oil that there is continuous gas flaring and pipe eruptions. The combination of factors have led to a brutally overwhelmed ecosystem. This ecological disaster combined with corporate greed has greatly contributed to an increase in poverty, poor health, benefited the continuing rise of organized communal warlords, and the overall misery of most rural communities in the region which I happened to be victims of.

Akanu Ngwa community has been impacted with poverty, lack of healthcare, poor infrastructure, poor education, high maternal death rate, high child mortality, a severe lack of social amenities, and so much more. Despite this extreme poverty there has been too little to no legislative action nor substantive policy attempts to address these conditions.

Rural Communities in Nigeria have not also escaped the global pandemic (Covid19). The outbreak of Covid19 in 2020 worsened my living conditions and that of other rural dwellers. Unfortunately even in the midst of zero access to healthcare delivery, the political class also hoard palliatives including the ones sent by the international communities. People who survive the pandemic have not survived the worsening poverty.

We have not also escaped police brutality in Nigeria. Prior to the popular Endsars Protest in Nigeria (2021) which led to the brutal killings of protesters at Lekki Lagos State, and police officers across the country, rural dwellers have and are still facing severe police brutality, corruption and mindless extortions.

Moving forward, the just concluded presidential election in Nigeria where the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) failed to keep to her own rules of E-transmission of presidential election results, and subsequently shot changing our candidate whom we believe won the election as predicted by CNN, Bloomberg, and Times Magazine etc.

I have decided to move on. Though I have made the attempt in the past but couldn't because of lack of funds. In early 2022, I made contact with a comrade in the UK who sent me links on possible migration opportunities to the UK but I didn't succeed because I had no support.

Since I cannot afford to travel to Europe or America at the moment, I had wished I could, so I contacted a comrade in Ghana and Botswana with my findings. I was told with \$3700 to \$4500 I can enter both countries. I am expecting to raise \$5000. If I can travel and improve my life after paying off my loan, I will be able to send back funds home to assist in our community organization (Rural Community Action Network).

Recently I enrolled in a new IT skill (Web Design) and I am also currently enrolling in Data Analysis. These are the two opportunities I look forward to starting with in any place I made it to.

I genuinely need help and I wish comrades will help me actualize these goals. Thank you as I look forward to a positive response.

Emma, with love and solidarity.

If you'd like to contribute, consider donating to @rphanna on paypal or \$ryancantsing on cashapp

For additional reading, at the time of writing we'd like to refer to the following articles.

<https://tinyurl.com/SustainableNigerDeltaStudy>

<https://tinyurl.com/GreenCriminologyInNigerDelta>

<https://tinyurl.com/DancingOnAKnifeEdge>